

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- This application is a divisional application of U.S. Serial No. 09/698,706, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,746,805 on June 8, 2004. This application is related to U.S. Serial No. 09/968,994, entitled "Methods For Fabricating Stencil Masks", which has a common assignee and one common inventor with this application and which was filed is being filed concurrently with U.S. Serial No. 09/698,706 this application. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 23 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Referring now to FIG. 20, a separate minor strut 66 is inserted into each of the ~~groves~~ grooves 64 to divide the large openings and to form a mask support structure 1000 in accordance with an other embodiment of the invention. Mask support structure 1000 of FIG. 20 is similar to support structure 10 of FIG. 1 and to mask support structure 100 of FIG. 18 and can be used in the manner previously described for such mask support structures. It is then advantageously filled with a temporary fill (not shown) and then opposite major surfaces 60a thereof are planarized. Mask support structure 1000 is then used as a support for a membrane layer and a mask layer in essentially the same manner as explained previously for mask support structure 10 of FIG. 1. - -